

# NAVAL BANDSMAN APPRENTICE

**NAVAL BANDSMAN APPRENTICE:** A young man who is in the non-commissioned ranks of the Royal Canadian Navy and is training for service as a musician.

## HISTORY AND IMPORTANCE

From the earliest times, music has accompanied feats of arms, serving the dual purpose of inspiring men to fight and relaying orders and commands.

Reference to instrumentalists performing for armed forces can be found in records dating from before the Birth of Christ. The Bible states that in the Siege of Jericho by the Children of Israel, "the armed men went forth led by the Priests who blew on trumpets". In the Phoenician War, drummers were used to set the pace for oarsmen in battles at sea.

The history of bands in the Royal Canadian Navy dates from about 1911 when the first bands were formed unofficially by various ships in the year following the formation of the RCN. These were made up of members of the ships' companies, with varied and sometimes dubious musical ability, who volunteered for the job.

The first Royal Canadian Navy band was formed in 1939 in Toronto. Subsequently it was moved to HMCS Stadacona, in Halifax. Authorization was later given for the formation of a second band at HMCS Naden, Esquimalt, British Columbia. By the end of the Second World War, 14 bands were serving in naval establishments throughout Canada and abroad.

Today the Royal Canadian Navy has four bands. They are based at HMCS Stadacona, HMCS Cornwallis and HMCS Shearwater, all in Nova Scotia, and at HMCS Naden.

Bands are an integral part of today's Navy. The Bandsman Apprentice Plan is designed to train expert musicians and to sustain the high professional standards that have been built by RCN bands during the past quarter-century.

## NATURE OF THE WORK

The Bandsman Apprentice is essentially a student, learning the work of a master craftsman just as civilian apprentices learn a trade under the guiding hands of qualified men.

The Bandsman Apprentice is enrolled to serve in the Navy for seven years. His training is divided into two phases: the first phase is his initial basic naval training of 15 weeks, and the second is his music training and study. During the first two years of his apprenticeship training he will be a student at the RCN School of Music, HMCS Naden, training under highly qualified instructors equipped with the latest training aids. He will spend the balance of

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his seven-year engagement perfecting his skill as a member of a naval band.

## WORKING CONDITIONS

The Naval Bandsman Apprentice trains under conditions suited to the serious student of music, in modern studios with proper acoustics, training aids and instruments. Instructors, many of whom hold degrees in music, take a keen interest in the progress of each student and work closely with him.

The Bandsman Apprentice works eight hours a day, five days a week, and has ample opportunity to pursue hobbies, sports and recreational activities. Naval establishments are well-equipped for recreation including swimming, softball, volleyball, basketball and many other activities.

## QUALIFICATIONS NECESSARY FOR ENTRY AND SUCCESS

Applicants for apprentice training as musicians in the Royal Canadian Navy must be 16 but under 19 years of age, and have the consent of their parents or guardian if under the age of 17½. They must have completed Grade 8 or better, and meet the medical and aptitude standards of the Navy. It is not necessary for an applicant to have musical experience or to be musically proficient. All applicants are auditioned and tested for musical ability or potential.

## PREPARATION NEEDED

While Grade 8 is the minimum educational requirement for entry as an Ordinary Seaman, the more education a man has the better are his chances for success. Education not only increases a man's potential for training and advancement, but also improves his chances of qualifying for promotion to commissioned rank.

Service in the Royal Canadian Naval Reserve, the Royal Canadian Sea Cadets, or experience in other cadet organizations, the Boy Scouts or Sea Scouts, is not necessary but may prove to be an advantage.

## EMPLOYMENT, ADVANCEMENT, OUTLOOK

On enrolment for a seven-year term, the Bandsman Apprentice is given 15 weeks of basic naval training at HMCS Cornwallis, which is situated in the Annapolis Valley of Nova Scotia. Here he learns naval customs and traditions and receives other basic training. The 15-week period is designed to facilitate the transition from civilian to service life.

On completion of this basic training course, the Bandsman Apprentice goes to the Royal Canadian Navy School of Music at HMCS Naden. The courses at this school extend over a period of 22 months. The student learns the elements of music such as theory, the development of rhythm and aural perception, and receives practical instruction on instruments. The instruction is gauged to the individual student's ability and power of absorption, so that skill will be developed.

The Apprentice begins his service career in the Royal Canadian Navy in the rank of Ordinary Seaman (Bandsman Apprentice). After 18 months of satisfactory service, he is promoted to Able Seaman (Bandsman Apprentice). By the end of his seven-year engagement, he should have advanced to the rank of Petty Officer Second Class (Bandsman).

Bandsmen play an important role in navy life. They take part in all ceremonial aspects of naval activity, such as the colourful "Sunset Ceremony", graduations, parades, ship commissioning ceremonies and many other events.

Naval bands contribute greatly to the success of many events, such as veterans' memorial parades and services, exhibitions and displays, dedications of new public buildings, and concerts in schools and hospitals. From time to time, bands are embarked in RCN ships for cruises to foreign ports where they provide services at various armed forces and public functions similar to those which occur in Canada.

Bandsmen Apprentices are encouraged to make a career in the Navy. It is not unusual for bandsmen to attain the rank of Chief Petty Officer. Some bandsmen are selected for commissioned rank and are appointed to conduct and direct naval bands. Band officers serve on the staffs of the Flag Officer Atlantic Coast and the Flag Officer Pacific Coast, and on the staff of the Commanding Officer Naval Divisions, the Reserve Navy's headquarters in Hamilton, Ontario. Officers also serve in administrative and instructional appointments at the RCN School of Music. For those who wish to make a career in the service, re-engagements subsequent to the first 7 years of service are for 5-year periods plus one 3-year period up to a total of 25 years service.

The Naval Bandsman Apprentice is paid a regular wage and, as his experience and time in service advances, his income increases.

The following is a table of monthly pay rates:

BASIC MONTHLY PAY	
Ordinary Seaman (Under 17).....	\$ 60.00
Ordinary Seaman (Over 17).....	112.00
Ordinary Seaman (Trained).....	119.00
Able Seaman.....	138.00
Leading Seaman.....	195.00
Petty Officer 2nd Class.....	219.00

Petty Officer 1st Class.....	251.00
Chief Petty Officer 2nd Class.....	289.00
Chief Petty Officer 1st Class.....	324.00

In addition, the Bandsman Apprentice is provided with meals and accommodation.

There is also trades pay ranging from \$12.00 per month at the Ordinary Seaman Trade Group 1 level to \$90.00 per month at the Chief Petty Officer Trade Group 4-A level.

For example, a Leading Seaman who has reached the Trade Group 3-A level, who is married and not provided with meals and accommodation receives the following pay and allowances:

Basic Monthly Pay.....	\$195.00
Trades Pay.....	63.00
Marriage Allowance.....	30.00
Subsistence Allowance.....	100.00
Kit Up-Keep Allowance.....	7.00
Total.....	\$395.00

Progressive increments, ranging from \$4 to \$10 a month, are paid after the second, fourth and sixth year of service in most ranks.

The maximum pay and allowances for a married Chief Petty Officer 1st Class amounts to \$593.00 a month.

A pension plan on a contributory basis of 6% of pay and allowances provides security for the man who wishes to make a career in the navy. On retirement, he receives a life annuity of 2% of his annual pay and allowances averaged over any six years he selects, multiplied by the number of years he has served. A married Chief Petty Officer 1st Class who has served 25 years and has six years in his rank would receive an annual pension of over \$3,000.00.

Other benefits include free medical and dental care, hospitalization, and 30 days' leave annually on full pay. For married personnel, a group surgical-medical insurance plan is available for dependents.

## ADVANTAGES

The Naval Bandsman Apprentice plan has many advantages for the student of music. His instruments are supplied by the Navy. The training program places emphasis on the individual, rather than on a group of students. The training is of a high standard under highly-qualified instructors, and the student is able to pursue a musical career while working with people of musical ability, talent and professional motivation. The apprentice is paid a regular income while learning, and is not required to pay any tuition or training fees.

The Bandsman Apprentice meets a constant professional challenge by accomplishing progressive mastery of his musical training. Not only is he a musician. He is also able to enjoy a way of life with a sense of service in the naval tradition, deriving great personal satisfaction from serving his country in the cause of peace.

He has the opportunity to travel, to meet new people and see new places. The naval bandsman may retire at a comparatively young age, still able to follow a musical career in civilian life while drawing a pension for his naval service.

## DISADVANTAGES

Musicians are usually interested in all types of music: the various forms of expression of the art. The naval musician will find that for the most part his work will be restricted to instruments of the naval band and music for parades, band concerts and dances.

While travel is interesting, it will take the naval musician away from his family on occasion because of the commitments of the band in which he plays. His personal life will be disrupted from time to time because of the band's commitments for evening performances or on weekends.

A serviceman puts his own inclinations and preferences second to the requirements of the service and gives up a certain degree of personal privacy.

## HOW TO GET STARTED TOWARD THE OCCUPATION

Prospective Bandsman Apprentices require at least Grade 8 education, and while musical experience is not essential, it is an advantage. Young men interested in learning more about the Bandsman Apprentice Plan should visit or write the nearest Naval Recruiting Officer. Recruiting Offices are located in the following cities:

Victoria, B.C.	Fort William, Ont.	North Bay, Ont.
Vancouver, B.C.	Windsor, Ont.	Montreal, P.Q.
Calgary, Alta.	London, Ont.	Quebec City, P.Q.
Edmonton, Alta.	Hamilton, Ont.	Saint John, N.B.
Regina, Sask.	Toronto, Ont.	Charlottetown, P.E.I.
Saskatoon, Sask.	Kingston, Ont.	Halifax, N.S.
Winnipeg, Man.	Ottawa, Ont.	St. John's, Nfld.

## RELATED OCCUPATIONS

The naval Bandsman Apprentice is similar to students of music in civilian life who find a challenge and enjoyment in this particular art form.

His work is similar to that of musicians in civilian or other service bands. He is, however, a naval man as well as a musician.

## FOR FURTHER READING

BOOKS: *The Far Distant Ships*, By Joseph Schull, Queen's Printer, Ottawa.

PAMPHLETS: *Navy Careers and Education*. Available from the nearest RCN Recruiting Office or by writing to: The Naval Secretary, Naval Headquarters, Ottawa, Ontario.

PERIODICALS: *The Crownsnest*. The Royal Canadian Navy's magazine. (Monthly). Queen's Printer, Ottawa.

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